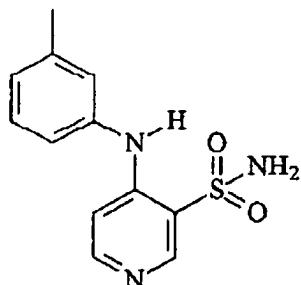


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing torsemide or salts thereof comprising:

- a) reacting a compound of formula II

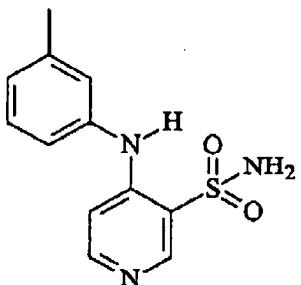


with isopropyl isocyanate in the presence of an alkali carbonate or bicarbonate and an organic solvent to form an alkali torsemide mixture,

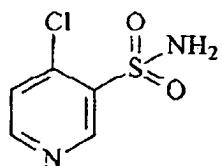
- b) recovering the alkali torsemide mixture as a salt, and  
c) if the torsemide is desired, recovering the torsemide by acidification of the alkali torsemide mixture.

Claim 2 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said process is carried out in the absence of triethylamine.

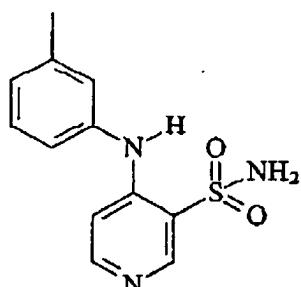
Claim 3 (currently amended): A process for preparing a compound of formula II



comprising reacting a compound of formula I



with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of a C1 to C6 alcohol to form a compound of formula II



wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

- i) a copper catalyst; and/or
- ii) triethylamine.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The process of claim 3 wherein the C1 to C6 alcohol is n-butanol.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the alkali carbonate is sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, or lithium carbonate.

Claim 7 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the alkali bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, or lithium bicarbonate.

Claim 8 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, methyl isobutyl ketone and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the alkali torsemide mixture is converted to torsemide by dissolving in water followed by acidification.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the acid used for acidification is a water soluble acid.

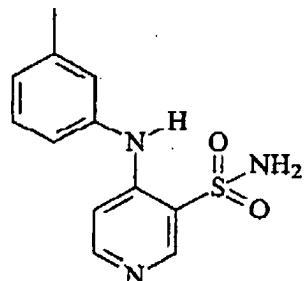
Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the acid used for acidification is acetic acid.

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the purity of the torsemide is at least about 99.5%.

Claim 13 (original): The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the purity of torsemide is at least 98%.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process of claims 1 or 2 wherein the known forms of torsemide are produced.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A process for preparing an alkali torsemide mixture as a salt comprising reacting a compound of formula II



with isopropyl isocyanate in the presence of an alkali carbonate or bicarbonate and an organic solvent to form an alkali torsemide mixture as a salt.